

Modern Languages Department: Spanish

Key Stage 3

Overview - Forms 1 - 3

The instruction and teaching strategies in our Spanish Department are highly flexible, thereby meeting the many different linguistic needs and demands of such an international and fluid student community, from non-native beginners to non-native advanced speakers, as well as Spanish for the National programme students.

All students take Spanish at appropriate levels throughout Key Stage 3.

Aims

The aims of the Spanish Department in the International Section of Greengates School are as follows. We strive:

- a. to develop the ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication;
- b. to prepare students for the appropriate IGCSE examination, the aim of that examination being that expressed in 'a';
- c. to form a sound base of the skills, languages and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure;
- d. to offer insights into the attitudes, life, culture and civilisation of Mexico, the host country;
- e. to encourage (through 'd') fuller integration into the local community;
- f. to offer insights into the culture and civilization of the other Spanish-speaking countries;
- g. to introduce the student to literature in Spanish;
- h. to develop a fuller awareness of the nature of language and language learning;
- i. to encourage positive attitudes towards foreign languages and a sympathetic approach to other cultures and civilizations;
- j. to provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation; and
- k. to complement the other areas of study by encouraging skills of a more general application
 - a. (e. g. memorising, analysis, drawing of inferences).

National Programme Students

All those students who need Mexican primaria and secundaria qualifications will follow the programme of the Secretaria de Educacion Publica (S.E.P.).

International Students

The following programme is designed for beginners and intermediate / advanced groups in the international (i. e. non-native speaking) section. Up to Form 5, these groups exist in each year, whose goal is to work towards the IGCSE examination.

In each year there will be three groups:

Beginners

For those students who arrive without any knowledge of Spanish. This group will be small and students should be expected to proceed rapidly to the intermediate group.

Intermediate

For those students with some knowledge of Spanish.

Advanced

For those students with a good command of Spanish. The placing of a fluent native-language speaker will depend on the ratio of such speakers to advanced foreign language speakers.

Objectives/Course Content - Forms 1 - 3

The one domain in Modern Languages is communication. It incorporates the four skills of

- 1. Speaking**
- 2. Listening**
- 3. Reading**
- 4. Writing**

All four areas of competence are continually practised and assessed in each year. (Indeed, **communication in real situations** is the one criterion by which all activity within the class should be determined.) Intermediate School course content works toward the following IGCSE guidelines (corresponding to the stated criteria of the National Curriculum of England and Wales). According to the year and ability level, students should be able to achieve the following tasks.

1. Speaking

All students should be able to:

- a. perform role-playing tasks;
- b. initiate and respond to unprepared questions in general conversation;
- c. report, express opinions and respond to questions on a topic chosen beforehand;
- d. express themselves based upon stimulus in the foreign language; and
- e. e) play an active part in a group discussion.

2. Listening

All students should be able to:

- a. demonstrate understanding of specific detail in short, formal public / informal announcements, short conversations and interviews;
- b. demonstrate general comprehension of the above;
- c. identify important points or themes of the material, including attitudes, emotions, and ideas expressed; and
- d. draw conclusions from and identify the relationships between ideas.

In this key area, students are taught specific listening skills, including: scanning, skimming, intensive listening, using linguistic patterns, using setting, description, knowledge, experience and grammatical make-up, all to help comprehension.

The Department resources include audio taped pieces and video / TV programmes, complementing the *Español en marcha* and *Gente joven* among others textbooks, to assist in the acquisition of these skills.

3. Reading

All students should be able to:

- a. demonstrate understanding of words within a short text such as public notices, instructions and signs;
- b. extract relevant information from texts such as brochures, guides, letters and forms of imaginative writing;
- c. show a general understanding of more extended texts;
- d. scan for particular information, organising the relevant information and presenting it in a given format; and
- e. draw conclusions from and see relationships with an extended text.

4. Writing

All students should be able to:

- a. carry out basic writing tasks (notes, post-cards, letters) asking for detailed information;
- b. express thoughts, feelings and opinions in order to interest, inform or convince; and
- c. demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax, grammar, punctuation and spellings.
- d. produce a project (in the Advanced groups F 1-3) based on the themes studied or the books read throughout the school year.

Methods of Evaluation

In the normal Spanish groups from Form 1 to 3, there is an ongoing evaluation method that focuses on different skills, depending on the level, (e. g. at the beginners' level there is more emphasis on oral production, while at the advanced levels, written skills are a priority).

Apart from regularly set pieces of homework, plus quizzes and tests and presentatons set at the teachers' discretion (in the advanced groups students undertake a continuous reading programme, a project based on the written reports on books read, is prepared by each student under teacher supervision), throughout the academic year, students sit a final exam at the end of the year.